

## From the corner: Law Day: Every Vote Matters



Every year since President Dwight D. Eisenhower proclaimed the first Law Day in 1958, the United States has marked May 1st as a day of national recognition of our great heritage of liberty, justice, and equality under the law. The theme for this year's Law Day, as designated by the American Bar Association, is "American Democracy and the Rule of Law: Why Every Vote Matters."

Our Office plays a vital role in the voting process by assisting the County Clerk, the Voter Registrar, and other County agencies and departments. We provide legal advice and help ensure that Harris County is in compliance with federal and state laws concerning the right to vote. In the weeks leading up to elections we provide formal training to election judges and workers and are available to help answer questions about the election process. In addition, the Texas Election Code authorizes our Office to investigate allegations of election fraud.

Law Day is a good time for us to reflect on what each of us can do to enhance American democracy and the rule of law. We are pleased that our Office has been granted the authority and privilege to protect and promote the voting rights of ourselves and our fellow Americans. — Vince

# Happy Anniversary!

**Thank you for your service to the public:**

Garland McInnis	9 years
Paul Morris	9 years
Zeke Cavazos	16 years
Barbara Hernandez	25 years

## Artful Lawyers Creed on display



Assistant County Attorney Jennifer Fox was recently commissioned to create a work of art for our Office. The Lawyer's Creed set against a backdrop of the 1910 Courthouse now graces the 15th Floor.

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## Bruce Mosier to be Honored at HBA Dinner

Bruce Mosier has been practicing law for 50 years. He was sworn into the State Bar of Texas on September 28, 1964. The next day, his daughter was born and two days later, he began his career at Harris County. His first boss was Jimmy McKnight, which may have been just what he needed to get his feet firmly planted after such a busy, life-changing week.



Bruce Mosier

A whirlwind of events set his career into motion, and Bruce relished the experience. He has served under three different County Attorneys and spent



Bruce and his lovely wife Diane at a 1983 gala hosted by then County Attorney Mike Driscoll.

time in the private sector. His appreciation for all things real estate law is obvious when you speak with him. And to top it all off, Bruce is a skilled banjo player who spends his free time entertaining groups of seniors and various civic organizations.

Bruce will be honored on May 15 at the Houston Bar Association's Annual Dinner and again on June 27 by the State Bar of Texas for reaching this 50th anniversary milestone. Our Office would like to congratulate Bruce on 50 years well spent.

## TDCAA Civil Law Seminar May 28-30



TDCAA's civil law seminar will be held May 28-30 in Galveston. The seminar features 12 hours of training (including 3 of ethics) tailored just for those attorneys who represent the county as a government entity.

This year, the seminar includes an entire day of split tracks; one track covers the Tort Claims Act, a §1983 update, and news about election law, while the other discusses open government, the County Purchasing Act, and trends in mental health. The general session includes information on the Brady Act as well as what the Michael Morton Act means for the civil attorney.

Senior Assistant County Attorney Mary Baker serves on the TDCAA's Civil Committee, along with County Attorney Vince Ryan, and has played a vital role in planning the seminar. Mary made topic proposals based on input from attorneys in our Office. The seminar brochure is available [here](#).



Mary Baker

## Connect5 Five questions for Gene Gundersen



Gene Gundersen is an Assistant County Attorney in the Protective Services-Juvenile group. She has been with our Office since 1995.

**What book would you recommend?**

The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein

**What was your favorite song in High School?**

You've Got a Friend by Carole King

**What was your favorite show in High School?**

Rowan & Martin Laugh-In

**What's your favorite hobby?** Pottery

**Describe yourself in one word?** Blessed



*WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE HARRIS COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, BOTH LAWYERS AND NON-LAWYERS, ADHERE TO THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL ETHICS AS WE SERVE THE PEOPLE OF HARRIS COUNTY AND STRIVE TO BE THE BEST PUBLIC LAW FIRM IN THE UNITED STATES.*



## Useful Links

County Attorney [SharePoint](#)  
County Attorney [Policy Manual](#)  
County Personnel [Regulations](#)

County Attorney [Website](#)  
Payroll Reports & Benefits [Online](#)  
County Attorney [Directory](#)

## Coming Attractions

Join us Thursday, May 8 from 2 to 3 p.m.  
in the Mike Driscoll Courtroom for a great CLE:  
"Services Provided by the Harris County Domestic Relations Office in the Family District Courts."

Every day I remind myself that my inner and outer life are based on the labors of other men, living and dead, and that I must exert myself in order to give in the same measure as I have received and am still receiving.

- Albert Einstein



## CAO Celebrates Law Week with Art, Essay

May 1 was National Law Day, a day set aside to celebrate the rule of law. Law Day is intended to underscore how law and the legal process have contributed to the freedoms that all Americans share. Each year, the Houston Bar Association sponsors a number of educational and community service programs to commemorate Law Day, including essay and art contests for area students. To kick off Law Week on April 28, the first place essay and several pieces of art created by area elementary and middle school students were put on display at the entrance of the Harris County Law Library.



Law Librarian Mariann Sears and the Houston Bar Association's Amelia Burt display artwork by an area middle school student at the Law Library entrance.

## Staff encouraged to take NIMS Training



**FEMA** | Emergency Management Institute

Employees are encouraged to take online National Incident Management System (NIMS) courses in disaster preparedness. [Click here](#) to view NIMS-related online courses.

The official start of hurricane season (June 1) is fast approaching. Harris County receives federal grant funds for hurricane disaster response, but continued funding depends on each agency training its staff on NIMS. NIMS training may be added to your annual professional development plan. When you complete a course, print the certificate of completion, scan it, and then email it to Marva Gay.

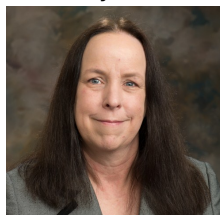
Most courses take between one and three hours to complete. You can pause and resume a course at any time. If you have not taken a NIMS course, start with the IS-100 introduction level.

## Litigation granted summary judgment

Sheriff's deputies who shot at a speeding vehicle were justified in their use of deadly force, according to Judge Melinda Harmon who granted summary judgment in favor of Harris County and the deputies in a case in which the plaintiffs claimed they were unlawfully detained and shot without justification.



Mary Baker



Mary Palacios



Janet Marton

The court found that the deputies' investigative stop of the plaintiff's automobile was based on reasonable suspicion. She also found that the use of deadly force was justified because Plaintiff's car had run over one deputy and was driving toward him when the other deputy shot into the automobile. The evidence showed that the deputies acted in self-defense.

The case is Boston v. Harris County. Senior Assistant County Attorney Mary Baker represented the deputies and Senior Assistant County Attorney Lisa Hulseley represented Harris County. Mary Palacios and Diana Pacheco served as paralegals. Assistant County Attorney Janet Marton contacted each of the JP offices to obtain theft and other case-related records.



Lisa Hulseley



Diana Pacheco

## TLAP program promotes relaxation



Breathe in ... and breathe out. On April 24, our Office hosted Bree Buchanan from the State Bar of Texas' Lawyers Assistance Program at our downtown and Murworth locations. Bree delivered a seminar about stress management, which touched on compassion fatigue and relaxation techniques.